

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 were rejected. By the present Response, claims 1, 5 and 7 are amended. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-7 will be pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action summarizes claims 1-7 as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,278,118 issued to Homme at al. (hereinafter "Homme").

The Examiner stated that Homme discloses an X-ray detector assembly having a substrate, a detector matrix array disposed on the substrate, a scintillator material disposed on the detector matrix array, and an encapsulating coating disposed on the scintillator material. The encapsulating coating comprises a combination of elements 8 and 10, which are organic layers having a mono-chloro-poly-para xylylene or Parylene C, and a poly-para-xylylene layer or Parylene.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 5 and 7 have been amended to specifically point out the positioning of the two claimed organic layers of the encapsulating coating relative to each other. The amended claims 1, 5 and 7 recite, *inter alia*, an encapsulating coating disposed on the scintillator material. The encapsulating coating having two layers of organic material disposed immediately adjacent to one another.

Applicants respectfully submit that Homme does not disclose or suggest a combination of two organic layers which are disposed immediately adjacent to one another. On the contrary, Homme discloses an encapsulating coating which has one or more organic layers which are separated by an inorganic layer. For example, as

illustrated in FIG. 2, and as recited in passages in col. 5, between lines 4-6, and lines 59-67, Homme teaches disposing an inorganic layer between two organic layers.

The first passage reads:

[T]he inorganic film 9 is protected against corrosion since it is held between the first organic film 8 and the second organic film 10.

The second passage reads:

Further, as shown in FIG. 6, an Al film having a thickness of 0.15 μm is laminated on the surface of the first organic film 8 on the entrance side by vapor deposition method, thus forming the inorganic film 9. Then, by using CVD method again, the surface of the whole substrate is coated with Parylene at a thickness of about 10 μm as shown in FIG. 7, thereby forming the second organic film 10. This second organic film 10 prevents the inorganic film 9 from deteriorating due to corrosion.

Additionally, Homme never teaches or suggests that the inorganic layer is optional. In all embodiments recited by Homme, it is taught that the inorganic layer is disposed between the two organic layers. In fact, as recited in a passage at col. 6, between lines 54-56, the reference teaches that the upper *organic layer is optional*.

The cited passage reads:

Also, when a material highly resistant to corrosion is used for the inorganic film 9, the second organic film 10 per se may be omitted.

For the reasons summarized above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 5 and 7 are allowable, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims. In response to the rejection of claims dependent from claims 1 and 5, it is respectfully submitted that inasmuch as

independent claims 1 and 5 are allowable, claims depending therefrom are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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